

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 EUR-12 EB-07 COME-00 HEW-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 FBO-02 /095 W

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FM AMCONSUL IBADAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2081

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L IBADAN 0121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, NI, US

SUBJ: SITREP FEBRUARY 19-22

REF: IBADAN 117

1. SUMMARY: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS FEBRUARY 19 AND 20 NEITHER AS LARGE NOR AS DESTRUCTIVE AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS, WHICH RESULTED IN SLIGHT DAMAGE AT USIS AND IITA, POLICE PROTECTION ADEQUATE. NO AMERICAN OR BRITISH CITIZENS OR DEMONSTRATORS REPORTED HURT. UNLIKE STATE GOVERNMENT OWNED SKETCH, LOCAL INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER-TRIBUNE- HAS TENDED PLACE BLAME FOR ATTEMPTED COUP AND MUHAMMED'S ASSASSINATION WITH NIGERIANS RATHER THAN UK AND US. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROXIMATELY 150-200 STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS, REPORTEDLY FROM UNIVERSITY IFE, PARADED DOWNTOWN IBADAN AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 19. THEY MARCHED PAST CONSULATE AND BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION BUILDING SHOUTING SLOGANS TO
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EFFECT AMERICANS AND BRITISH OUT, PAUSED AT USIS TO BREAK

FOUR LARGE PLATE GLASS WINDOWS, AND AT BRITISH COUNCIL BUILDING-WHERE POLICE KEPT THEM AT BAY. DEMONSTRATION LASTED ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS BEFORE STUDENTS DISPERSED. POLICE PROTECTION USIS DETERMINED TO BE TOTALLY INADEQUATE (ONE AGEING CORPORAL WITH WW I RIFLE), AND STATE POLICE COMMISSIONER SO INFORMED BY BPAO.

3. LARGER DEMONSTRATION, CIRCA 500 STUDENTS, TOOK PLACE AFTER CHURCH SERVICES FOR MURTALA MUHAMMED AT ABOUT NOON, FEBRUARY 20. APPARENTLY ELEMENTS OF STUDENT BODIES FROM UNIVERSITIES IBADAN AND IFE AND IBADAN POLYTECHNIC INVOLVED. DEMONSTRATION DOWNTOWN AROUND CONSULATE AND DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION CONTAINED BY POLICE AND LIMITED TO MARCHING AND SHOUTING. TWO CONTINGENTS OF ABOUT FIFTY STUDENTS EACH BUSSED TO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE, FORCED GATE AND PROCEEDED TO INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. THERE THEY TORE DOWN IITA FLAG, BROKE BOTTLES AND GLASSES, HELPED THEMSELVES TO DRINKS AND THREW FURNITURE INTO SWIMMING POOL, HARASSING AND FRIGHTENING SOME IITA PERSONNEL PRESENT. NO AMERICAN OR BRITISH CITIZENS OR DEMONSTRATORS REPORTED INJURED IN ANY OF DEMONSTRATIONS, AND PROPERTY DAMAGE MINIMAL.

4. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AND 22, HAVE REMAINED QUIET UP TO 3:30 P.M. LOCAL

5. LOCAL STATE GOVERNMENT-OWNED NEWSPAPER, SKETCH, HAS BECOME STRIDENT OPPONENT OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN INTERESTS, AND HAS NOT HESITATED TO PROMULGATE RUMORS, LIES AND INNUENDO TO IMPLICATE CIA AND BRITISH HICOM LAGOS IN ATTEMPTED COUP AND MURTALA MURDER. SKETCH, AUGMENTED BY TIMES AND NEW NIGERIAN CONTINUE TO REPORT DEMANDS AND REQUESTS FROM VARIOUS STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS THAT FMG NATIONALIZE AMERICAN AND BRITISH BUSINESS INTERESTS, EXPEL US AND UK RESIDENTS, MISSIONARIES, DIPLOMATS AND EXPERTS, AND CLOSE DOWN US CONSULATES AND UK DEPUTY HICOMS. SKETCH CARRIES SEVERAL SIGNED ARTICLES "PROVING" CIA COMPLICITY COUP ATTEMPT, AND AN EDITORIAL CALLING FOR RECALL BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, CLOSING OF STATE OFFICES OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

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IN NIGERIA AND SUSPICION ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

6. IBADAN-BASED INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE PLACES EMPHASIS UPON GOWON ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN COUP PLOT, TO SOME EXTENT ABSOLVING US AND BRITISH FROM IMPLICATION. IT IS ONLY NIGERIAN NEWSPAPER SO FAR TO CARRY DEPARTMENT SPOKEMAN'S DENIAL US INVOLVEMENT IN ABORTIVE COUP. EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 20 STATES UK HIGH COMMISSIONER ACTED

CORRECTLY WHEN APPROACHED BY LT. COL. DIMKA, BUT CASTIGATES
BRITISH AND AMERICAN PRESS AND GOVERNMENTS FOR MAKING
HERO OF GOWON. IT ADDS CIA IS NOTORIOUS FOR KILLING
POLITICAL LEADERS UNFRIENDLY TO US, BUT SHOULD HAVE
LEARNED BETTER BY NOW. BOTH SKETCH AND TRIBUNE CALL
FOR EXTRADITION GOWON TO NIGERIA TO STAND TRIAL.
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